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**EPA, USS Lead Superfund project, meeting notes, 12/5/2011**

Fmtconsulting to: Michael Berkoff, Steven Kaiser

12/30/2011 12:24 PM

jrodriguez, cmorgan, vgomez, jedwards, mdedinsky, caburto, gflores,
Cc: bmarciniak, lhicks, dwilliams, dburns, marredondo, wguzman,
pbaranyai, jmartinez, redmonds, rramos, hcruz, TSamuel, Jdart,

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To: Michael Berkoff/R5/USEPA/US@EPA, Steven Kaiser/R5/USEPA/US@EPA

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Date of Meeting - December 5, 2011

Attendees:**For the City of East Chicago:**

Jezreel Rodriguez, Engineering Department

Carlos Aburto, ECFD

Herbie Cruz, EMA

Ruben Ramos, Marina

Ronald Edmonds, Street Department

John Martinez, Sanitation

Peter Baranyai, Utilities

Winna Guzman, Building Department

Miguel Arredondo, Code Enforcement

Diana Gacia Burns, Health Department

Francisco Rosado, Human Resources

Frances Nowacki, Park Department

Beatrice Martinez, EC Housing Authority

Sandra Martinez, EC Public Transportation

Maria Dedinsky, Water Department

Monsie Corsbie, Solid Waste

John Artis, Redevelopment

Tera Samuel, Economic Development

Dwayne Williams, Planning Department

Levi Hicks, Safety

Gus Flores, ECPD

Val Gomez, Mayor's Chief of Staff

For EPA

Mike Berkoff, Project Manager for USS Lead Superfund Project

Steve Kaiser, EPA Superfund, attorney

Items Discussed

- Steve (EPA) gave a brief overview of the history of the project and current status.

- EPA summarized current ongoing field activities which included soil removal/replacement at the site that EPA considered time-critical. The work is scheduled to be completed within December 2011. The scope includes approximately 11 homes where the soil's lead levels exceeds 1,200 ppm in the upper 6". FMT raised the need to be better communicate with the City regarding project data and field work/activities related to the project. Several key City departments were not aware of the ongoing removal activities including the Mayor's office. Val Gomez, City's Chief of Staff, stated that project details should be

communicated and coordinated through Fernando M. Trevino of FMT Consulting, Inc, unless EPA is informed otherwise.

EPA action item - Mike will send a copy of EPA's "Action Memo" to FMT with the addresses redacted.

EPA action item - EPA will transmit copies of project documents such as project schedule, remedial investigation, feasibility study, proposed plans, ROD, risk assessments, etc.. to City/FMT.

→ - The City mentioned that there are public utilities, Nipsco for instance, that aren't aware of the special soil handling provisions for conducting work within the Superfund site.

EPA action item - EPA will follow-up to inform all necessary public utilities.

→ - The City raised concerns whether properties will have deed restrictions because of the contamination. EPA stated that they don't believe deed restrictions will be necessary because the soil removal is intended to remedy any environmental or health hazards, but restrictions may imposed on public properties such as sidewalks and parking lots.

EPA action item - EPA will look into this to confirm whether homes will have deed restrictions.

→ - The City expressed the need to have a database of which properties will have soil work in the event the need arises on future projects.

EPA action item - EPA expressed concerned with the confidentiality of releasing this information and will look into this.

- FMT questioned how EPA's EJ 2014 is being utilized in East Chicago. Mike confirmed that East Chicago is a EJ 2014 site.

EPA action item - Mike will summarize how EJ 2014 is being implemented in East Chicago.

- FMT questioned how this project was maximizing hiring East Chicagoans and minorities? Mike mentioned that EPA teams up with local communities to run job training programs for this project. They will let us know in advance when this effort will be scheduled and coordinated.

EPA action item - EPA will inform the City in advance when they coordinate their job training program.

- Mike mentioned that the boundaries for the Superfund site have already been delineated by the use of soil sampling results and air flow models. Depending on soil sampling results, there will be some areas where the EPA will sample all homes and other areas they won't test all homes.

EPA action item - EPA will transmit a map to FMT indicating results of the current soil analysis.

- EPA discussed the human health and environmental importance for City departments to follow EPA approved procedures for any work within the Superfund site that requires soil disturbance.

- FMT raised the importance for having pre-approved procedures for doing work/projects within the superfund project. The EPA "go-ahead" to fix the sink hole on Kennedy Ave took 3 to 4 months. EPA agreed there's a need for this and suggested using the procedures used for the sink hole project as a good starting point to submit to EPA for consideration.

City action item - The City will transmit a draft of procedures for doing work within the Superfund site where work activities are expected to disturb soil for EPA approval consideration.

- Attorney Kaiser explained to the City that EPA is not required to obtain City permits for any their field work affiliated with the Superfund project.

- The City mentioned that almost all homes in the "Little Cal" area which is within the Superfund project footprint have sump pumps in their basements.

- EPA mentioned that they have had City community meetings to communicate project details, soil results and health risks.

- The project schedule was discussed. EPA expects to have the Feasability Study and Clean up Plan in place by 2nd quarter of 2012, with removal activities starting in 2013 and continuing through 2014 and possibly 2015.

- There was discussion regarding reimbursing the City for out of pocket expenses for the dealing with this Superfund project. EPA stated that EPA doesn't have any legal mechanism for reimbursing the City but there may be EPA grant opportunities.

FMT asked if DuPont would be an option for reimbursing the City since they are a viable business and have "lead" as part of their released contaminants related to the RCRA clean-up?

EPA action item - EPA will look into options for City reimbursement and report back to the City/FMT.

- EPA asked if there were any particular communication practices or ideas that the City feels would benefit the project to please transmit to them for consideration.

Janet Pope is the EPA's "Community Involvement Coordinator".

City action item - The City/FMT will send suggestions/ideas to EPA for better communication.

If anyone has any questions or comments on the meeting notes, please let me know.

Fernando M. Treviño
FMT Consulting, Inc.